

Appl. No. : 09/554,288
Filed : January 09, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a source container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device fed by the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary-vane feeder;

controlling a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder from an intermediate container disposed between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device to the source container takes place wherein said controlling takes into account a filling state of ~~an~~ the intermediate container ~~between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device~~ so as to maintain the intermediate container at a substantially filled ~~constant filling height~~ and wherein the metering device comprises a ~~rotor-seal~~ weighing cell; and

altering a speed of rotation of the metering device to regulate discharge of the metering device.

Claims 11-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a source container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device fed by the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary-vane feeder; and

controlling a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder in accordance with a filling state of an intermediate container arranged between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder to the source container takes place so as to maintain the intermediate container at a substantially ~~constant filling height~~ filled.

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20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said controlling takes into account ~~a filling~~ the substantially filled state of ~~an~~ the intermediate container between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, further comprising altering a speed of rotation of the metering device to regulate discharge of the metering device.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, further comprising using a pneumatic feed, and altering at least one of an air amount and an air speed to regulate discharge of the metering device.